CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for facilitating the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of a patient suspected of having a medical disorder, comprising:

5   determining attributes of the patient and making a preliminary diagnosis based on the attributes that a patient has a particular medical disorder;

selecting a source of information about the particular medical disorder;

comparing the attributes of the patient to the information on the selected source of information;

10   indicating a portion of the information from the selected source that matches or does not match an attribute of the patient;

recording data identifying the patient; and

simultaneously displaying the selected information, matching indicia and patient data.

15   2. The method of claim 1, wherein the information in the source about a medical disorder comprises at least one sign or symptom of the medical disorder, at least one test used to confirm or evaluate the medical disorder, and at least one treatment for the medical disorder.

20   3. The method of claim 1, wherein said source comprises a template containing information relating to one or more medical disorders and having a field for the entry of patient information.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the template is a printed sheet.

5.   The method of claim 4, wherein the sheet is erasable and reusable.

5   6.   The method of claim 3, wherein the source is a computerized database and the template is
        a computer-generated visual display.

7.   The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the selected information,
        matching indicia and patient data from a health care practitioner making the selection,
10   indication or recordation to another health care practitioner or to the patient's medical
        record.

8.   A method for managing patient medical information using a computer system having data
        storage means and a graphical user interface including a display, data input means, and a
15   selection device, the method comprising:
        retaining in the storage means a database of information related to medical conditions;
        using the selection device to retrieve from the database information relating to a medical
        condition;
        using the data input means to enter patient data into the storage means; and
20   simultaneously displaying the retrieved information and the patient data on the display.

9.   The method of claim 8, further comprising displaying additional reference information
        not limited to the medical condition or patient data.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the database comprises information on the etiologies of said medical conditions.

5   11. The method of claim 8, wherein the database comprises information on the signs or symptoms of the medical conditions.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the displayed patient data and the retrieved medical condition information associates one of said signs or symptoms with the patient.

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13. The method of claim 8, wherein the database comprises information on differential diagnoses of the medical conditions.

14. The method of claim 8, wherein the database comprises information on diagnostic tests or

15   work-up procedures used to confirm or evaluate the medical conditions.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the displayed patient data and the retrieved medical condition information associates one of said tests or a portion of said work-up with the patient.

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16. The method of claim 8, wherein the database comprises information on the treatment or management of patients with the medical conditions.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the displayed patient data and the retrieved medical condition information associates one of said treatments or management procedures with the patient.

5   18. The method of claim 8, wherein said patient data identifies the said patient.

19. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for facilitating the performance of the method of claim 8.

10   20. The method of claim 8, wherein the medical information includes at least one type of information selected from each of the following four groups:

(a) definition, epidemiology, etiology, background, or description;

(b) sign, symptom, or abnormality;

(c) differential diagnosis, diagnostic work-up, laboratory test or data; and

15   (d) treatment, management, follow-up, prognosis, staging criteria, or surgical indication.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein said displayed medical information and patient data associates one of said signs or symptoms with the patient.

20   22. A device for use in connection with providing health care to a patient, comprising:

a source of information on signs or symptoms associated with a medical disorder, wherein a user can select a sign or symptom relevant to the patient and the device maintains a record of the selection;

a source of information on tests used to determine the presence or severity of the medical

disorder, wherein a user can select one of said tests relevant to the patient and the device

maintains a record of the selection;

a source of information on treatments for the medical disorder, wherein a user can select a

5   treatment relevant to the patient and the device maintains a record of the selection; and

at least one field associated with said sources of information for entry of patient data.

23.   The device of claim 22, wherein the device is a printed template.

10   24.   The device of claim 22, further comprising multiple copies of the templates assembled

together such that one copy at a time can be removed by a user without damaging the

remaining copies.

25.   The device of claim 22, wherein the template is adapted to be marked by a user and the

15   marks can be later removed and the template returned to its original condition and marked

again.

26.   The device of claim 22, wherein the device is an electronic storage and computing device.

20   27.   The device of claim 26, wherein the device is portable.